

Appl. No. 10/656,552

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Status of Claims

Claims 33-42 were filed in the present application. These claims have been subjected to a restriction requirement. As outlined above, Claims 33-41 are elected, and Claim 42 is withdrawn from consideration.

Restriction Requirement

The Office has required restriction to one of the following groups of claims:

Group I: Claims 33-41, drawn to a method of producing a handling aid, classified in Class 264, subclass 299; and

Group II: Claim 42, drawn to a method of using a handling aid, classified in Class 53, subclass 396.

The Office Action indicates that Groups I and II are related as independent inventions, each having a unique and separate means for establishing patentability. Invention I does not require the use as detailed by Invention II, and Invention II does not require the formation as detailed in Invention I. Applicant hereby elects of Group I, with traverse and respectfully requests reconsideration of the Restriction Requirement.

Applicant submits that the claims in the groups are related, and complete examination cannot be made of either group of claims without searching and considering the art in the other group's classification. Therefore, Applicant submits that it would be more efficient to search and examine both claim groupings together. That being the case, Applicant submits that it would be more burdensome upon him to have to prosecute two separate applications for the identified claims than it would be for the Patent Office to examine the two groups together. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement is hereby respectfully requested.

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Applicant believes that the foregoing presents a full and complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Applicant looks forward to an early notice of allowance for this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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